



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Shawna Bolick (R-20)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Shawna Bolick Introduces the Lifeline for Student Crime Victims Act

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Shawna Bolick (R-20) last week introduced the Lifeline for Student Crime Victims Act ([HB 2474](#)). The bill would make students who have been victims of crimes eligible for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program.

Currently, only certain public school students are eligible for ESAs, such as students with disabilities; students with a parent on active duty military or that was killed in the line of duty; students with a parent that is legally blind, deaf, or hard of hearing; students that attend D or F-rated schools, students residing on a Native American reservation; students who are wards of the state; and students that have previously received ESAs or are siblings of a student that has received an ESA.

The Lifeline for Student Crime Victims Act would expand eligibility to include public school students who have been victims of battery, harassment, hazing, kidnapping, physical attack, robbery, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, threatening, intimidation, fighting, sex trafficking, or human trafficking.

“Students who have been victims of crime need a safe environment in order to learn,” said Representative Bolick (R-20). **“If a student can’t be a successful learner because they have been a victim of a crime, they need another option. The Lifeline for Student Crime Victims Act provides these students with the means to attend a school where they feel safe, protected, and in a position to succeed.”**

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